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## **GUI's and CLI's**

It comes as no surprise that I feel more comfortable using GUIs. I have been relying on them since Windows 98. The command shell was always conveyed to my child-mind as the scary box where hackers and bad men perform nefarious operations. The most obvious differences between the two are built around the operator: input and output.

The input/output of a GUI is extremely user friendly. Visual displays are curated to inform and communicate with the user to such an extent that one may intuit the operations of a software based solely on the interface. The input operations are conveyed just as effectively: the mouse is a near-omniscient tool and most opportunities for input inform the user exactly how to proceed (i.e. text fields, check boxes, etc.)

The command line is far from intuitive for the average user. One may not sit at a terminal with little to no knowledge of basic command operations and decipher what they must do to proceed. Inputs are a precise and codified language, and outputs are just as cryptic. Nevertheless, CLIs are more rapid and efficient. Errors are more frequent when using CLIs (at least in my case), but the utility of the application is undeniable.

A simple example may be that if an alien were to sit at a PC with Windows 10 or Mac running, they could conceivably find their way through humanity's digital spaces. If this same

alien were to sit at a terminal operating only a command shell, they would surely fail to discover any significant information beyond an error.